

eral judiciary. That body, like gravity, with noiseless foot and unalarming advance, gaining ground step by step, and holding what it gains, is ingulphing insidiously the special governments into the jaws of that which feeds them. (To Judge Roane, 1821.

C. VII., 212.)

JUDICIARY, FEDERAL.—We already see the power installed for life responsible to no authority advancing with a noiseless and steady pace to the great object of consolidation. The foundations are already deeply laid by the decisions for the annihilation of constitutional State rights and the removal of every check, every counterpart to the ingulphing power of which the members are to make a sovereign port. If ever this vast country is brought under a single government it will be one of the most extensive corruptions, indifferent and incapable of a wholesome care over so wide a spread of surface. This will not be borne and you will have to choose between reformation and revolution. If I know the spirit of the country, the one or the other is inevitable. Before the canker is become inevitable, before its venom has reached so much of the body politic as to get beyond control, remedy should be applied. Let the future appointment of judges be for four or six years, and renewable by the President and Senate. This will bring their conduct, at regular periods, under revision and probation and may keep them in equipoise between the general and special governments. We have erred in this point by copying England, where certainly it is a good thing to have the judges independent of the King. But we have omitted to copy this caution also which makes a judge removable on the advice of both legislative houses. That there should be public friction independent of the nation whatever may be their demerit, is a sole cause in a republic of the first order of absurdity and inconsistency. (To W. T. Barry, 1822. C. VII., 256.)

JUDICIARY, FEDERAL.—One single object, if your provision attains it, will entitle you to the endless gratitude of society, that of restraining judges from usurping legislation. And with no body of men is this restraint more wanting than with the judges of what is commonly called our general government,